



## **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AN INTRODUCTION FOR NON-NAVY ORGANIZATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

For over fifty years, the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of the Navy (OGC) has served as civilian lawyers and advisors to the Navy and Marine Corps. With approximately 580 civilian attorneys (plus 30 uniformed Navy and Marine Corps Judge Advocates) throughout the United States and overseas, OGC develops legal solutions to business and other challenges facing the Navy and Marine Corps. OGC's civilian attorneys come from a wide variety of backgrounds and possess the expertise necessary to support our clients' needs.

### **MISSION**

The Office of the General Counsel helps the Navy and Marine Corps fulfill their missions through practical and objective legal advice and counsel, effective advocacy and creative problem solving, drawing on sound legal analysis, corporate experience and teamwork. The legal service provided by OGC attorneys throughout the Department is timely and responsive to client needs, enabling clients to exercise the full range of discretion available under the law.

### **VISION**

Our goal is to provide legal advice and counsel on business and other matters that is sought after and relied upon throughout the Navy and the Marine Corps. Individual OGC lawyers are fully integrated members of their client's team. Although geographically dispersed, they can draw upon the collective expertise of the entire office in serving their client. We deliver to individual clients the full range of OGC legal services required to accomplish their mission.

### **THE NAVY CLIENT**

The Department of the Navy is one of the world's largest businesses and employers of both uniformed and civilian personnel. To build and support its fleet of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, cruisers, destroyers, supply ships and aircraft, the Navy conducts billions of dollars worth of business annually, operating on a global scale. The principal offices, organizations and Commands served by Navy OGC lawyers include:

- Secretary of the Navy
- Under Secretary of the Navy
- Commandant, United States Marine Corps
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management)
- Naval Air Systems Command
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command
- Naval Sea Systems Command
- Naval Supply Systems Command
- Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command

Military Sealift Command  
Office of Naval Research

## **ORGANIZATION**

The General Counsel of the Navy, the principal legal advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, leads OGC. The Central Office of OGC includes the Principal Deputy, General Counsel, the Deputy General Counsel, the Associate General Counsel for Management, the Associate General Counsel for Litigation and the Offices of the Assistant General Counsels. Major OGC offices support the clients listed above. Approximately 20 career lawyers in OGC are members of the Senior Executive Service, appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, including the Command Counsel and some Deputy Command Counsel. The General Counsel of the Navy appoints all other civilian OGC attorneys throughout the Navy and Marine Corps.

Within each Command listed above, the OGC legal office is led by the Command Counsel who is responsible for all OGC legal support for the Command, both in its headquarters and its field activities. OGC has 95 field offices located throughout United States and overseas. In accordance with individual Command organization and practice, OGC attorneys may be assigned on a functional or program basis.

## **THE WORK OF OGC**

OGC attorneys help clients address legal concerns in virtually every area of the law relating to business, Government contracts, property, human resources and other issues arising in a multifaceted, high technology organization. OGC attorneys also represent the Navy in administrative cases before a variety of boards and support the Department of Justice in litigation brought by or against the Navy in Federal courts. OGC attorneys are regularly called upon to provide legal advice and recommendations spanning many areas of practice. With the consolidation of Navy assets and regionalization of activities, OGC attorneys are also assisting an increasing number of Fleet and other activities as they assume new responsibilities that were previously addressed by other OGC clients and shore activities. OGC's structure allows for the coordinated provision of legal advice at all levels of the Department of the Navy's principal components.

Typically, the law practice in OGC headquarters and field offices follows core practice areas with respect to acquisition, public employment, ethics, environmental concerns, fiscal issues, and personal and real property law. However, as a reflection of a particular client organization and mission, OGC practice areas can include subject matters such as: information and physical security; law enforcement; leases; licenses; transportation law; construction and demolition; tax questions; bankruptcy; base realignments and reorganizations; invention disclosures; copyright and trademark questions; private party transactions; utility law; admiralty and maritime law and a variety of agreements and memoranda of understanding. Although the majority of OGC attorneys are generalists, approximately 50 OGC attorneys are licensed to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and specialize in the multi-faceted practice of intellectual property law.

## **OGC & NAVY AND MARINE CORPS UNIFORMED ATTORNEYS**

Though OGC is comprised primarily of civilian attorneys, a number of military judge advocates also work within OGC on matters principally involving employment and environmental law. The areas of law practiced exclusively by OGC include commercial law areas involved in acquisition, use and disposition of property, material, intellectual property (including patent law) concepts and services, as well as fiscal law. The Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps and Marine Corps Judge Advocates, on the other hand, focus their practice on military law, international law, admiralty law, claims, investigations and

legal assistance to service members. Both organizations practice environmental law, employment law, and ethics, and are responsible for litigation matters arising in their respective areas of practice.

### **CONTACTING AN OGC ATTORNEY**

Consult OGC's web site at: <http://ogc.navy.mil>, or call an office listed below.

Central Office (Pentagon)

Commercial: (703) 614-5066 DSN: 225-5066

Commandant, United States Marine Corps (Pentagon)

Commercial: (703) 697-5357 DSN: 227-5357

Naval Air Systems Command (Patuxent River MD)

Commercial: (301) 757-5361 DSN: 757-5361

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Washington Navy Yard)

Commercial: (202) 685-9115 DSN: 325-9115

Naval Sea Systems Command (Crystal City VA)

Commercial: (703) 602-1776 DSN: 332-1776

Naval Supply Systems Command (Mechanicsburg PA)

Commercial: (717) 605-6745 DSN: 430-6745

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (San Diego CA)

Commercial: (619) 524-7055 DSN: 524-7055

Military Sealift Command (Washington Navy Yard)

Commercial: (202) 685-5160 DSN: 325-5160

Office of Naval Research (Ballston VA)

Commercial: (703) 696-4272 DSN: 426-4272